

approval, although later press dispatches indicated that there might be some change in the amount of funds allocated for the work.

Clinical Laboratories. The Clinical Laboratory, or Senate Bill 118, received a favorable vote in both Senate and Assembly. The State Board of Health, designated as the licensure body, did not approve the measure. It is one of those unfortunate measures which makes it mandatory upon a constituted state agency—in this instance the State Board of Health—to issue licenses, without giving any real disciplinary authority to the Board. If a laboratory, for example, is turning out work that, in the opinion of the State Board of Health, is not up to standard, all the Board can do in the premises is to “recommend” to the director of such a laboratory that certain changes be made! It obligates the Board to give blanket licenses to certain laboratories that have been in existence a certain number of years, and also to “technologists” and “technicians” who have been doing work for a specified time.

Expert Medical Testimony. The Expert Medical Testimony Bill (Senate Bill 446) is before the Governor for consideration, and, if approved, will mark a real step forward in this important field.

Other Measures. The above are the more important measures on which, at the time of this writing, action is still pending. The “open county hospitals” bills went down to early defeat, but will probably be revived two years hence.

The health insurance measures (Senate Bill 605 and companion, Assembly Bill 1491) did not secure legislative sanction and, therefore, lie over again for battle presumably when the Legislature of 1939 convenes.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION: MEMORANDUM: LETTERS ON THEIR WORK

Rosters of Officers and Committeemen Are Listed in Each Issue of the Official Journal.—On advertising page 2 of each issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE appears a roster of the Association's officers and standing committees. The attention of members of the fifteen important committee groups there listed is called to the resolution, printed on page 417 of the June issue, which, as adopted by the House of Delegates at Del Monte, provides for a mid-annual session meeting of committeemen, to be held this year at Fresno, on Saturday, October 30.

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Committeemen Should Learn Opinions of Fellow Members Through Correspondence.—Members of each standing committee should acquaint themselves with the purport of the above resolution, and should anticipate its purpose by early conference, through correspondence, with one another, and exchange written memoranda on the work their respective committee is supposed to cover. New members of standing committees will find the function of each committee outlined in the Association by-laws, a copy of which may be had by request to the central office of the Association.

The chairman of each standing committee has a special obligation in this, and may well take the lead in writing such a memorandum-letter through which opinions may be exchanged, and the basis so prepared for the report which each committee will be called upon to give at the October meeting, at which officers of the Association and county society secretaries will also be present.

JOSEPH POMEROY WIDNEY: FOUNDER OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Los Angeles County Medical Association Is Fortunate.—The Los Angeles County Medical Association, with its 2,255 members,* is perhaps unique because, 'way out on the Pacific Coast, in the southwestern corner of the United States, it shows to organized medicine not only one of the largest component county units of any of the constituent state associations of the American Medical Association, with a headquarters home and a library that are of increasing joy to members and others who visit and use them, but also through the fact that he who was the motivating spirit when the Association was formed, more than fifty years ago—Dr. Joseph Pomeroy Widney, now in his ninety-seventh year!—is still among those present, and at this ripe age continues to display to colleagues, of all ages, an example of work and service that is little less than an inspiration.

* * *

A Life Notable for Its Record of Service.—The notable medical, educational, and civic career of Founder Widney was outlined in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE in its issues for April and May, 1936 (pp. 292 and 396); and in last month's number, on page 398, was printed his message to fellow members, given seventy-one years after he received his medical degree, when the handsome bronze bust sculptured by another member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, Dr. Emil Seletz, was unveiled with notable ceremonies. As a member of the Class of 1866 of Toland Medical College, which in time became the School of Medicine of the University of California, Doctor Widney has had the distinction of being the oldest living graduate of that institution.

Attention is now called to the article because a perusal of Doctor Widney's philosophy of service, and his outlook on the evolution of medical practice, as portrayed by him in brief remarks to his colleagues (as he leaned upon the staff which his blindness compels him to carry), cannot do other than make one marvel at such a rounded-out life of service.

For all of us, a fervent wish should be that, with equal humility, we may carry on our work with the same earnestness and devotion as Doctor Widney so successfully has done, and is still doing in his ninety-seventh year. To him, then, our continued good wishes!

* The Los Angeles County Medical Association also carries on its rolls: 22 military members; 36 members on leave of absence; and 91 honorary (retired) members.